GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6473
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015
ESDM
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to do Research in the areas of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has provided financial assistance for establishing a Research Academy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): The Department of Electronics and Information Technology has been nurturing R&D in the area of Electronics, Information Technology, Convergence Communication & Broadband Technology and related areas. The list of projects supported can be seen as http://deity.gov.in/content/dit-funded-projects.

Further, Government has taken several initiatives to promote innovation and research in the area of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing. These inter alia include approval of the Electronic Development Fund (EDF) policy, funding R&D projects in medical electronics through Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) funding. The details for some of the projects are given below:

i. Electronic Development Fund(EDF) Policy:

The EDF is set up as "Fund of Funds" to participate in "Daughter Funds" which in turn will provide risk capital to companies developing new technologies in the area of electronics, nano-electronics and Information Technology. This policy provides a framework where the decision to support R&D is based on market conditions and through industry professionals well versed with industry requirements. The Policy was approved by the Cabinet on 10th December, 2014.

ii. Electropreneur Park by STPI-New Delhi, Delhi University and IESA

The Project Electropreneur Park is an Incubation centre being implemented by Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) New Delhi in association with Delhi University as academic partner and India Electronics Semiconductor Association (IESA) as Industry Partner, with grant-in-aid of Rs 21.11 Crore from DeitY. The project aims to incubate 50 start-up companies over a period of 5 years in the area of Electronics System Design Manufacturing. This project was approved on 17th June 2014.

iii. Incubation Centre in the area of Medical Electronics at IIT Patna, Bihar

The Incubation Centre in the area of Medical Electronics was approved on 11th December, 2014 with a estimated outlay of Rs 47.10 Crore including a Grant-in-Aid of Rs 22.10 Crore from Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) with an aim to incubate 50 start-up companies in Medical Electronics over a period of 5 years at Indian Institute of Technology Patna..

iv. "Industry Innovation Programme on Medical Electronics [IIPME]" to be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

The project "Industry Innovation Programme on Medical Electronics [IIPME]" being implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Government of India enterprise and Not-for-Profit Organization has been initiated with a grant-in -aid of Rs.10.50 Crores from Department of Electronics and Information Technology

(DeitY). The project aims to incubate 5 to 10 companies over the period of 3 years. This project was approved on 17th November, 2014.

v. Electronics Incubator by IIITM-Kerala and Startup Village:

The total cost of project is estimated to be Rs. 49.91 Crore over a period of 4 years to incubate 40 start-ups, out of which Rs. 22.78 Crore is funded as grants-in-aid from Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) and the remaining fund of Rs.

25.17 Crore from Government of Kerala, IIITM-Kerala and Startup Village. This project was approved on 23rd April, 2015 by Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

vi. National Centre of Excellence for Large Area Flexible Electronics (CFlexE):

Large Area Flexible Electronics is an emerging area of electronics and is based on monolithic integration of Electronics on amorphous substrates in Large Area. Department of Electronics & Information Technology has approved setting up of a Centre of Excellence in this area at IIT Kanpur Kanpur with an outlay of Rs.132.99 crore to be spent over 5 years to develop expertise on this emerging area of electronics. The centre aims to develop prototype on Printable Electronic Tags, Anti-Counterfeiting for Medicine package, Flexible Solar Module, Circuit Lab on Paper, Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) Lighting, Flexible Temperature Sensor and Conductive Inks.

vii. Funding support to Global and Technology Alliance (GITA):

To provide funding and support to Industry and Academic institutions for doing collaborative research, a proposal submitted by GITA, a not-for-profit (section 25) company promoted jointly by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Department of Science and Technology, Govt of India has been approved. The project aims to promote innovation, Intellectual Property Right, R&D and commercialization of products etc in the ESDM sector by providing funding support to an Industry for doing collaborative research with an Academic research institute in the priority areas with a timeline of not more than two years.

(b) and (c): Government has not provided any financial assistance for establishing Research Academy in the area of ESDM. However, Government has approved Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics & IT in February, 2014 with an outlay of Rs. 401 crores to be spent over nine years. As part of the scheme, fellowship will be provided to 500 full-time PhD scholars and 1000 part-time PhD scholars. The scheme will also support 200 Young Faculty Research fellowship in the areas of ESDM and IT/ITES with the objective to retain and attract young faculty.